

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of requesting electronic program guide (EPG) data which have been converted to EPG speech files using an information appliance coupled to a server at a location remote from the information appliance, comprising the steps of:

(a) requesting a portion of the converted EPG speech files corresponding to a particular time interval, the portion including a plurality of sections each section representing a respectively different sub-interval of the portion of the EPG speech files;

(b) receiving and storing the portion of the converted EPG speech files in the information appliance;

(c) presenting a sequence of aural prompts to a user, prompting the user to select time information corresponding to one section of the plurality of sections of the stored portion of EPG speech files to be extracted, the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a respectively different channel;

(d) navigating through the stored portion of EPG speech files in the information appliance, responsive to the aural prompts, to extract the one section of the plurality of sections of the stored portion of EPG speech files and to extract a further section of the plurality of sections corresponding to a subsequent time interval; and

(e) sequentially presenting the extracted one section of the stored portion of EPG speech files and the further extracted section of the stored portion of EPG speech files extracted in step (d) through audio speakers without receiving a user input for the further extracted section.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method of providing information using an information appliance coupled to a server at a location remote from the information appliance, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing electronic program guide (EPG) text files in a database at the remote location;

(b) converting, at the remote location, the EPG text files stored in step (a) into EPG speech files and storing the converted EPG speech files;

(c) receiving a request for a portion of the EPG speech files converted in step (b) and a request for the EPG text files;

(d) retrieving the requested portion from the stored converted EPG speech files and transmitting to the information appliance the portion of the EPG speech files requested in step (c);

(e) receiving and storing the EPG speech files in the information appliance transmitted in step (d);

(f) presenting a sequence of aural prompts;

(g) navigating through the stored speech files in the information appliance, responsive to the aural prompts, to extract a section of the stored speech files;

(h) reformatting the EPG text files into a page of text and presenting the page of text on a television monitor;

(i) receiving an indication of a location on the page of text corresponding to the extracted section of the stored speech files; and

(j) transmitting, from the remote location to the information appliance, a further portion of the EPG speech files corresponding to the received location indication.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 in which the page of text includes at least one date, multiple channels, multiple times and at least one legend inserted in a grid; and

step (d) includes transmitting speech files of the at least one date, multiple channels and multiple times;

step (i) includes receiving an indication of a location in the grid; and

step (j) includes separately transmitting speech files of the legend in the grid location indicated in step (i).

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which step (a) includes requesting a portion of the EPG data that has been converted into the EPG speech files using a first text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer and a second TTS synthesizer, whereby the first TTS synthesizer and the second TTS synthesizer use different languages.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which step (a) includes requesting a portion of the EPG data that has been converted into the EPG speech files using a selected voice personality from one of multiple voice personalities.

7.-8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including

(f) presenting set-up configurations sequentially through the audio speaker;

(g) pausing the audio presented in step (i) between each set-up configuration; and

(h) waiting a predetermined time period during each pause to receive an input command.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which step (b) includes receiving the portion of converted EPG speech files at a periodic interval of time and storing the portion of the converted EPG speech files in a memory device of the information appliance.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of requesting electronic program guide (EPG) text data which have been converted to EPG audio data using a communications network, comprising the steps of:

(a) requesting a portion of the converted EPG audio data corresponding to a particular time interval, the portion including a plurality of sections each representing a respectively different sub-interval of the portion of EPG audio data;

(b) receiving from the network, by a set top box (STB), at least the portion of the converted EPG audio data;

(c) storing, by the STB, the at least the portion of the converted EPG audio data received in step (b);

(d) presenting a sequence of aural prompts to a user, prompting the user to select time information corresponding to one section of the plurality of sections of the stored EPG data to be extracted, the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a respectively different channel;

(e) receiving commands, responsive to the sequence of aural prompts;

(f) processing-extracting the one section of the EPG audio data, responsive to the commands entered in step (e) and extracting a further section of the plurality of sections corresponding to a subsequent time interval; and

(g) sequentially presenting the extracted one section time-information in the section of the EPG audio data and the further extracted section of the EPG audio data processed

extracted in step (f) through an audio speaker without receiving a user input for the further extracted section.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 in which step (b) includes receiving the EPG audio data at periodic time intervals.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 in which step (g) includes presenting the EPG audio data by announcing at least a channel, a time, and a legend corresponding to the channel and time;

pausing the announcement through the audio speakers; and

presenting by announcing at least another channel, time, and legend immediately after pausing the announcement.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 in which step (g) includes presenting the EPG audio data by announcing at least a channel; and the method including the following additional step:

(h)selecting the channel for one of listening and viewing.

15. (Currently Amended) An audio enabled data service system, including an information appliance comprising:

a memory device;

a modem adapted to connect to a network;

a processor coupled to the modem for (a) communicating on the network, (b) periodically receiving portions of electronic program guide (EPG) speech files from the network, each portion corresponding to a respectively different time interval and each portion including a plurality of sections each representing a respectively different sub-interval of the respective portion (c) storing the portion of EPG speech files in the memory device and (d) providing a

sequence of aural navigation prompts to a user, prompting the user to select time information corresponding to one section of the plurality of sections of the stored portion of EPG speech files to be extracted, the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a respectively different channel;

a receiver for accepting input commands from a remote control, the input commands entered responsive to the sequence of aural navigation prompts;

an audio speaker configured with the processor to present the sequence of aural navigation prompts; and

the processor, responsive to the input commands accepted by the receiver for (a) extracting the one section of the plurality of sections of the portion of the EPG speech files stored in the memory device and extracting a further section of the plurality of sections corresponding to a subsequent time interval and (b) sequentially sending the extracted one section of the portion of EPG speech files and the further extracted section of the portion of EPG speech files to the audio speaker without receiving a user input for the further extracted section.

16. (Previously Presented) The audio enabled data service system of claim 15 including

a server coupled to the network;

wherein the server includes a storage device for storing the portions of EPG data, a text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer for converting the portions of EPG data into the EPG speech files, and a transmitter for transmitting the portions of EPG data and the EPG speech files onto the network.

17. (Currently amended) An audio enabled data service system comprising:

a television monitor; and

an information appliance comprising:

a memory device,

a modem adapted to connect to a network,

a processor coupled to the modem for (a) communicating on the network, (b) periodically receiving electronic program guide (EPG) speech files and EPG text files from the network, (c) storing the EPG speech files in the memory device and (d) providing a sequence of aural navigation prompts,

a receiver for accepting input commands from a remote control, the input commands entered responsive to the sequence of aural navigation prompts, and

an audio speaker configured with the processor to present the sequence of aural navigation prompts,

the processor is responsive to the input commands accepted by the receiver for (a) extracting a portion of the EPG speech files stored in the memory device and (b) sending the extracted portion of the EPG speech files to the audio speaker,

wherein:

the processor formats the EPG text files into a page of text and the processor provides the page for display on the television monitor, the page including a section, the section including a plurality of sub-sections,

the extracted portion of the EPG speech files corresponds to the section,

the receiver accepts an input command which provides an identifier for identifying a location of a sub-section of the plurality of sub-sections on the page displayed on the television monitor, and

the processor, in response to the identifier, extracts a further portion of the EPG speech files corresponding to the identified location of the sub-section on the page, and sends the corresponding further portion of the EPG speech files to the audio speaker without changing the text of the displayed page.

18. (Previously Presented) The audio enabled data service system of claim 17 wherein the page includes at least one date, multiple channels, multiple times, and at least one legend inserted in a grid;

the identifier identifies the grid on the page; and

the further portion of the EPG speech files extracted by the processor includes the legend inserted in the grid.

19. (Previously Presented) The audio enabled data service system of claim 18 further including a server coupled to the network,

wherein the server includes a storage device for storing the (EPG) text files, a text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer for converting the EPG text files into the EPG speech files, and a transmitter for transmitting the EPG text files and the EPG speech files onto the network,

the processor receives the EPG speech files in response to a download request from the server; and

the download request includes a first download request for the at least one date, multiple channels and multiple times, and a second download request for the legend inserted in the grid.

20. (Original) The audio enabled data service system of claim 16 wherein the TTS synthesizer includes a synthesizer using one of a first language and a second language, whereby the first language is different from the second language.

21. (Previously Presented) The audio enabled data service system of claim 16 wherein the TTS synthesizer includes multiple voice personalities for converting the portions of EPG data into EPG speech files; and

the TTS synthesizer selects one of the multiple voice personalities, in response to an input command from the remote control.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which step (c) further includes presenting a sequence of prompts in text form corresponding to the sequence of aural prompts.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 in which step (d) further includes presenting a sequence of prompts in text form corresponding to the sequence of aural prompts.

24. (Previously Presented) The audio enabled data service system of claim 17 wherein the processor provides a sequence of prompts in text form corresponding to the sequence of aural navigation prompts for display on the television monitor.

25. (New) A method of requesting electronic program guide (EPG) data according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

interrupting the presenting of one of the extracted sections of EPG speech files at a point in time, responsive to a user input; and

resuming the presenting of the one extracted section of EPG speech files at the point in time, responsive to a further user input.

26. (New) A method of requesting electronic program guide (EPG) data according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

interrupting the presenting of one of the extracted sections of EPG speech files at a point in time and skipping to presenting another one of the extracted sections of EPG speech files that corresponds to a different time interval, responsive to a user input.